



Fort Fetterman State Historic Site



Curt Gowdy State Park



Glendo State Park

# Wyoming Division of State Parks, Historic Sites and Trails

# economic IMPACT

Our contribution to the state and local communities

2010

Report by Dr. Daniel J. Stynes

Wyoming State Parks, Historic Sites & Trails  
**ARTS. PARKS. HISTORY.**  
Wyoming Department of State Parks & Cultural Resources

# Generating revenue for Wyoming



Curt Gowdy State Park

Here are the findings of a survey conducted in 2010 to determine the economic impact of Wyoming's state parks and historic sites on communities statewide. To ensure the most accurate portrayal of our role in Wyoming, we took a conservative approach in conducting this survey. We used only the most calculable data, forgoing any visitor spending that could be easily skewed. We included such expenses as gas, groceries and lodging, but left out durable goods and visitor purchases made at home. We also excluded one-time capital construction costs. Still, in the absence of such spending, the survey results are extremely encouraging and demonstrate the contribution of our state parks and historic sites to Wyoming's economy.

Dr. Daniel J. Stynes, a research professor at Michigan State University, conducted the study. He is often referred to as a "guru" in this field, having conducted similar studies for many other state parks, the National Park Service, USDA Forest Service and US Army Corps of Engineers during the past 30 years.



For every dollar of state funding  
spent on our sites, \$8.97 is returned  
to Wyoming's communities.



# What we learned

In 2009, Wyoming's state parks and historic sites had a total economic impact of \$78.1 million, supporting 1,123 jobs, generating \$28.9 million in wages and salaries statewide and contributing \$3.0 million in state and local taxes.

Two-thirds of the spending associated with park visits is estimated to take place within 60 miles of the parks, and 80% of the jobs supported by visitor spending are in the local regions around each park.

## Statewide economic contribution

- 1,123 jobs
- \$28.9 million in wages and salaries
- \$47.4 million in visitor spending
- \$3.0 million in state and local taxes

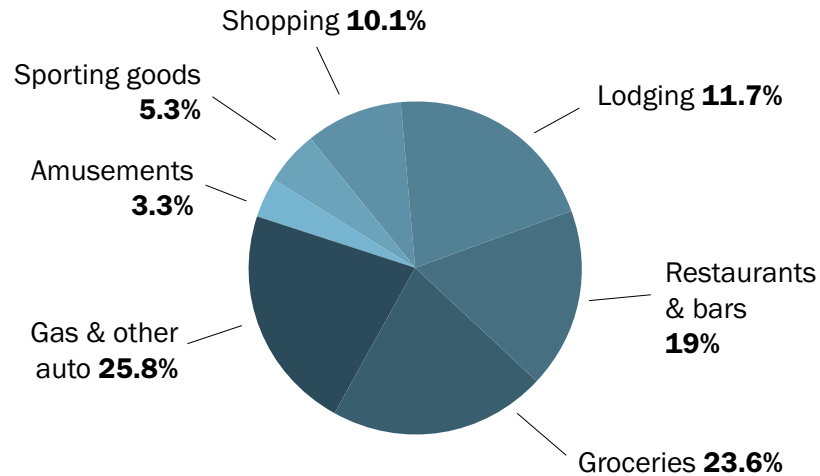


Keyhole State Park

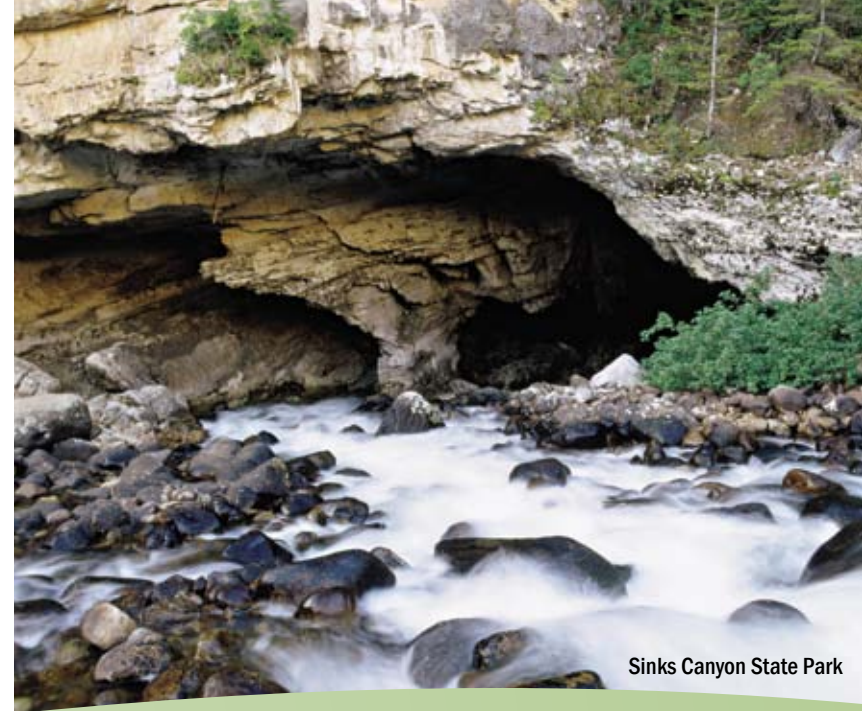


Trail End State Historic Site

Total visitor spending: \$47.4 million



*Note: Does not include state park admission and camping fees.*



Sinks Canyon State Park

Our sites had over 2.8 million visitors in 2009,  
resulting in \$47.4 million in new spending.

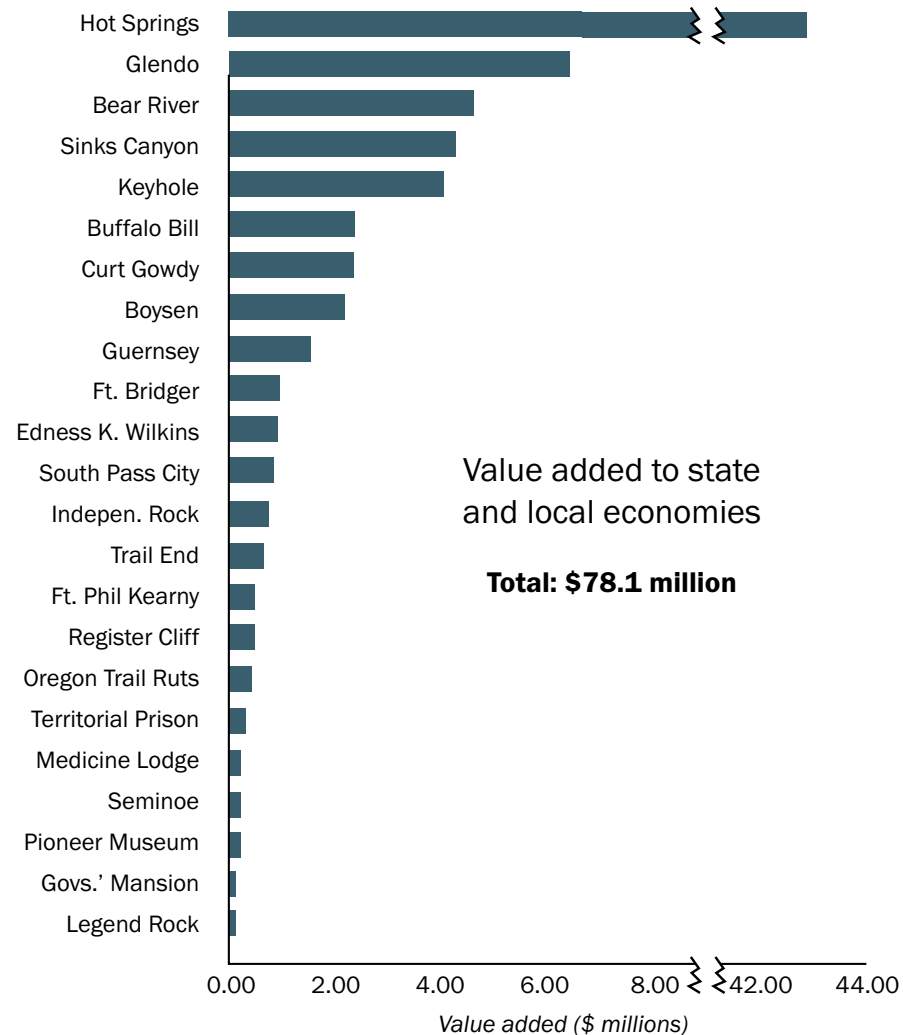


# Hot Springs State Park



Hot Springs State Park

Hot Springs State Park has the greatest local impact, accounting for almost half of all visits to state parks and historic sites, and for over 50% of all visitor spending. Visitor spending and park operations for Hot Springs State Park account for 431 jobs statewide. It is estimated that park visitor spending supports 70% of motel jobs and 44% of restaurant jobs in Hot Springs County.



# Looking ahead

Wyoming's state parks and historic sites are important to the state's economy. We can have an even greater impact by extending visitor stays at these sites. Hot Springs State Park, with its developed and diversified infrastructure, provides the greatest economic benefit to Wyoming's communities. Visitors to our sites have an opportunity to recreate in the midst of spectacular natural beauty, share in our incredible western history and create a positive economic impact that strengthens the well-being of Wyoming's communities.



Point of Rocks Stage Station



Wyoming Territorial Prison  
State Historic Site



Fort Bridger State Historic Site





Historic Governors' Mansion



Bear River State Park



Buffalo Bill State Park

We are so grateful for your support.

Wyoming State Parks, Historic Sites & Trails

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Wyoming Department of State Parks & Cultural Resources

This publication was produced at low cost by staff.

For a copy of the full economic report, contact 307-777-2416 or [SPHS@state.wy.us](mailto:SPHS@state.wy.us).